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CLAIMS:

1. A protective breathing hood comprising a hood made of a stretchable fire resistant material and which is also impermeable to gases and biologic material, said hood sized and shaped for placing over a head of a user in an airtight manner
5 with an opening of the hood sealingly engaging a neck portion of the user; at least a visor portion of the hood is transparent; and a pair of respiratory units disposed offset with respect to the nose location; each respiratory unit comprising a housing formed with an inhalation flow path accommodating activated charcoal particles, and an exhalation flow path fitted with a one way exhaling valve, and wherein in a
10 donned position of the hood a chamber is formed at a mouth/nose location thereof.
2. A protective breathing hood according to Claim 1, wherein the housing comprises an array of receptacles accommodating the charcoal particles; where each receptacle has an inlet opening and an outlet opening and where at least one of the inlet and outlet opening of each receptacle has a cross-section smaller than a
15 cross-section of the receptacle.
3. A protective breathing hood according to Claim 1, wherein the housing comprises an array of receptacles defined by partitions extending between a proximal wall corresponding with an inside of the hood, and a distant wall corresponding with an outside of the hood; said receptacles accommodating the
20 charcoal particles; the walls comprising openings corresponding with each receptacle and wherein the openings have a cross-section smaller than a cross-section of the receptacle.
4. A protective breathing hood according to Claim 3, wherein the partitions are integral with one of the proximal wall and the distant wall.
- 25 5. A protective breathing hood according to one of Claim 2 and 3, wherein the openings are fitted with a grid.
6. A protective breathing hood according to Claim 1, wherein the activated charcoal particles are loose material packed within suitable receptacles.

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7. A protective breathing hood according to Claim 1, wherein the activated charcoal particles are loose material embedded within a bedding material received within housing.
8. A protective breathing hood according to Claim 7 wherein the activated charcoal particles are impregnated in a charcoal cloth.
9. A protective breathing hood according to Claim 1, wherein the receptacles are disposed in the form of a honeycomb.
10. A protective breathing hood according to Claim 1, wherein the receptacles have a hexagonal cross-section.
11. A protective breathing hood according to Claim 1, wherein the receptacles have a circular cross-section.
12. A protective breathing hood according to Claim 1, wherein the visor portion is integrally formed with the hood.
13. A protective breathing hood according to Claim 1, wherein the hood is entirely transparent.
14. A protective breathing hood according to Claim 1, wherein the hood is provided with one or more deforming members for deforming the hood so as to form the chamber at a mouth/nose location of the hood.
15. A protective breathing hood according to Claim 14, wherein the deforming member is made of a rigid though pliable material.
16. A protective breathing hood according to Claim 15, wherein the deforming member is articulated to both respiratory units and is foldable about an integral hinge formed at a middle portion thereof.
17. A protective breathing hood according to Claim 16, wherein the deforming member comprises two arms, each articulated to a respective respiratory unit and being normally biased into a spaced apart position.
18. A protective breathing hood according to Claim 13, wherein the one or more deforming members are reinforced ribs integrally formed with the hood.
19. a protective breathing hood according to Claim 18, wherein the hood is integrally molded the reinforced ribs.

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20. A protective breathing hood according to Claim 1, wherein the breathing unit is sealingly fitted within an opening formed in the hood and fixed to the hood by a snap-type engagement.
21. A protective breathing hood according to Claim 1, wherein a sealing neck
5 portion of the hood is axially plaited.
22. A protective breathing hood according to Claim 1, wherein the air exhalation flow path and the inhalation flow path are coaxially disposed within a respiratory unit.
23. A protective breathing hood according to Claim 6, wherein the loose
10 activated charcoal particles is granulated material.
24. A protective breathing hood according to Claim 23, wherein the size of the loose granulated activated charcoal particles is about 0.5 to 1 mm.
25. A protective breathing hood according to Claim 1, wherein the respiratory units further comprise a biologic material barrier disposed in the inhalation flow
15 path.
26. A protective breathing hood according to Claim 1, foldable into a pocket-sized package.
27. A protective breathing hood according to Claim 1, wherein at least a portion of the hood has a distinctive color.
- 20 28. A protective hood according to Claim 1, wherein the hood is made of silicone rubber.
29. A protective breathing hood according to Claim 28, wherein the entire hood is transparent.
30. A protective hood according to Claim 1, wherein the exhaling valve is a
25 mushroom-type valve fitted into the housing.
31. A protective hood according to Claim 1, being a disposable one.